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Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

This report provides a news synopsis of trade policy and agriculture/commodities in China. It includes: (1) Farmers Aged 60 and Above Eligible for 55 RMB / Month Pension; (2) International Pork Conference Held; (3) Agricultural Trade Fair Opens in Changchun; (4) MOFCOM to Support Cold Chain Construction for Agricultural Products.

General Information:

Farmers Aged 60 and Above Eligible for 55 RMB / Month Pension: On September 4, the General Office of the State Council announced the “State Council’s Guidance for Experimental Work Regarding a New Type of Rural Endowment Insurance.” The pilot program will be initiated in 2009 and aims to gradually standardize public services in rural areas with those of urban areas, thereby promoting social stability. Unlike residents in urban areas, China’s rural farmers do not receive a pension. Under this new program, farmers aged 60 and above with a registered “Hukou”

(residence card) can receive 55 RMB cash per month. This new pension plan will be distributed to eligible farmers even if they have never contributed to a pension plan. Before this new measure, there was not rural pension system for most rural areas of China. (Farmer's Daily, 09/07/2009)

International Pork Conference Held: According to the Fifth International Pork Conference on September 3 in Qingdao, China's total meat production in 2008 totaled 73 million tons, accounting for 29 percent of total world production. In 2008, China produced 46.2 million tons of pork and products, accounting for 49 percent of the world total. The conference emphasized the need for China to continue development of high-end pork products including chilled meat, smaller packaging, and pollution-free pork. (Meat Industry Newspaper, 09/04/2009)

Agricultural Trade Fair Opens in Changchun: From September 7 to 13, Changchun held its 7th Agricultural Trade Fair. The fair drew participation from 3,000 exhibitors in 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities with exhibits focusing on food and culture, livestock, agricultural machinery, food processing machinery, and a general agricultural products show and sale area. Widely attended each year, an estimated 30,000 visitors attended this year's fair. (Sina's Agriculture, 09/09/2009)

MOFCOM to Support Cold Chain Construction for Agricultural Products: In a September 4 posting on its website, the Ministry of Commerce highlighted the need for a consistent cold chain for agricultural products moving within China. Currently, most products are moved at outside temperatures, with variations in types of storage facilities and transportation that result in loss of products and investment. According to MOFCOM research data, over 10 percent of fresh fruits and vegetables is lost in each domestic shipment as a result of these fluctuations. In order to decrease agricultural product loss, expand the period of sale, increase farmer incomes, and protect agricultural product safety, MOFCOM will focus on providing more support to establishing cold chain logistics in China. (MOFCOM website, 09/04/2009)